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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,938	12/12/2001	John Marshall Armstrong		3984

7590 05/14/2003

Marshall Armstrong
367 Mill Stream Rd.
Lexington, SC 29072

EXAMINER

RADA, ALEX P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 05/14/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed on February 20, 2003 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121, as amended on September 8, 2000 (*see 65 Fed. Reg. 54603, Sept. 8, 2000, and 1238 O.G. 77, Sept. 19, 2000*). In order for the amendment to be compliant, applicant must supply the following omissions or corrections in response to the notice.

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed on February 20, 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): a) no argument were presented for the art rejection set forth in the previous office action; b) the signature of Timothy C. Youmans is not a registered patent agent/attorney, only registered patent agents/attorneys may practice before the US Patent Office. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).
2. Applicant should submit an argument under the heading "Remarks" pointing out disagreements with the examiner's contentions. Applicant must also discuss the references applied against the claims, explaining how the claims avoid the references or distinguish from them.

Art Unit: 3714

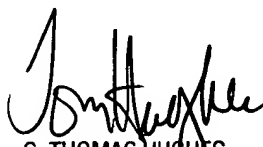
The examiner notes that the drawings submitted the specification added contains new matter. Also, attached are guidelines to aid applicants in the proper procedural response to an office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex P. Rada whose telephone number is 703-308-7135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 08:00-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on 703-308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

APR
apr
May 5, 2003


S. THOMAS HUGHES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Applicant's Response

The following consists of general information for the Applicant's benefit. Unless the Office explicitly requests the return of a paper, all papers mailed to the Applicant are intended to be kept by the Applicant for his own records. The response must be signed by ALL applicants.

I. Amendments to the Specification

After March 1, 2001, all amendments to the specification, including the claims, must be made by replacement paragraph/section/claim in clean form (without underlining and bracketing) in order to eliminate (1) the need for the Office to enter changes to the text of application portions by handwriting in red ink, and (2) the presence of hard to scan brackets and underlining to improve the patent publishing process. This practice requires the applicant to provide a clean copy of an amended paragraph/section/claim together with a marked up version using applicant's choice of a marking system showing the changes being made which will aid the examiner. The marked up version must be based on the immediate previous version and indicate (by markings) how the previous version has been modified to produce the clean replacement paragraph(s), section(s), specification or claim(s) submitted in the current amendment. "Previous version" is defined as the version of record in the application as originally filed or from a previously entered amendment.

(1) Amendment by instruction to delete, replace, or add a paragraph. Amendments to the specification, other than the claims and listings provided for elsewhere, may be made by submitting:

- (i) An instruction, which unambiguously identifies the location, to delete one or more paragraphs of the specification, replace a deleted paragraph with one or more replacement paragraphs, or add one or more paragraphs;
- (ii) Any replacement or added paragraph(s) in clean form, that is, without markings to indicate the changes that have been made; and
- (iii) Another version of any replacement paragraph(s), on one or more pages separate from the amendment, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph(s). The changes may be shown by brackets (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter), or by any equivalent marking system. A marked up version does not have to be supplied for an added paragraph or a deleted paragraph as it is sufficient to state that a particular paragraph has been added, or deleted.

(2) Amendment by replacement section. If the sections of the specification contain section headings as provided in 37 CFR § 1.77(b), 1.154(b), or § 1.163(c), amendments to the specification, other than the claims, may be made by submitting:

- (i) A reference to the section heading along with an instruction to delete that section of the specification and to replace such deleted section with a replacement section;

- (ii) A replacement section in clean form, that is, without markings to indicate the changes that have been made; and
- (iii) Another version of the replacement section, on one or more pages separate from the amendment, marked up to show all changes relative to the previous version of the section. The changes may be shown by brackets (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter), or by any equivalent marking system.

(3) Amendment by substitute specification . The specification, other than the claims, may also be amended by submitting:

- (i) An instruction to replace the specification;
- (ii) A substitute specification in compliance with § 1.125(b); and
- (iii) Another version of the substitute specification, separate from the substitute specification, marked up to show all changes relative to the previous version of the specification. The changes may be shown by brackets (for deleted matter), or underlining (for added matter), or by any equivalent marking system. An example of an amendment to the specification could appear as follows:

On page 16, line 12, change "effect" to --affect--.

On page 23, line 4, insert --bucket-- after "backhoe".

(Note: the inserted language is placed between double dashes.)

If a new specification is submitted, a marked up copy of the original specification is also required.

II. Amendments to the Drawings

Any amendment to the drawings modifying, deleting or inserting figures must be specifically requested in the amendment. Any changes must be shown in red-ink on the drawings. Any insertion of new figures must be set forth in the amendment and the specification must be amended in the Brief Description of the Drawings as well as in the Detailed Description of the Drawings sections in a manner as set forth above.

III. Amendments to the Claims

All amendments to a claim must be presented in the form of a rewritten claim. Any rewriting of a claim will be construed as a direction to cancel the previous version of the claim. See *In re Byers*, 230 F.2d 451, 455, 109 USPQ 53, 55 (CCPA 1956)(amendment of a claim by inclusion of an additional limitation had exactly the same effect as if the claim as originally presented had been canceled and replaced by a new claim including that limitation). Any rewritten or newly added claim must be submitted in clean form, that is, with no markings to indicate the changes that have been made, and must be accompanied by a marked up version separate from the amendment using applicant's choice of marking system to indicate the changes being made. A parenthetical expression should follow the claim number indicating the status of the claim as amended or newly added, e.g., "amended," "twice amended," or "new," in both the clean version and the marked up version. A marked up version does not have to be supplied for any added claims or any canceled claims. If a marked up version is

supplied to show changes made to amended claims, however, applicant should identify (in the marked up version) any added or canceled claims with a statement, such as, "Claim 6 has been canceled." A canceled claim can be reinstated only by a subsequent amendment presenting the claim as a new claim with a new claim number.

Applicants may submit a clean version (with no markings) of all of the pending claims in one amendment paper. Applicants may wish to consolidate all previous versions of pending claims from a series of separate amendment papers into a single clean version in a single amendment paper. Providing this consolidation of claims in the file will be beneficial to both the Office and the applicant for patent printing purposes. When rewriting a claim in the clean set, the parenthetical expression, if any, from the claim to be rewritten should not appear in the clean set. Thus, the only time a parenthetical expression should appear in the clean set is when a claim is being amended. See MPEP § 714.13 for submitting a clean set of claims under 37 CFR 1.116 and MPEP § 714.16 for submitting a clean set under 37 CFR 1.312. See also MPEP § 714.22(a). It is recommended that the following format be used by applicants in complying with the revised amendment practice requirements. The amendment paper should include, in the following order:

- (A) a clean version of the amended (replacement) paragraph(s)/claim(s);
- (B) a remarks section (beginning on a separate sheet); and
- (C) a marked-up version (also beginning on a separate sheet) showing changes and clearly identified as "Version with markings to show changes made."

The submission of a clean version of all pending claims shall be construed as directing the cancellation of all previous versions of any pending claims. A marked up version would only be needed for claims being changed by the current amendment (see 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)). Any claim not accompanied by a marked up version will constitute an assertion that it has not been modified relative to the immediate prior version. Thus, if applicant is not making any amendments to the claims, but is merely presenting all pending claims in clean form, without any underlining and bracketing, a marked up version should not be submitted.

As an example, if a claim for a chair were originally written as follows:

1. A chair comprising a horizontal seat, a vertical back, and a plurality of vertical support members.

An amended marked-up version of this claim might then be written as follows:

1. (Amended) A chair comprising a horizontal seat, a vertical back, and [a plurality of] four vertical [support members] legs attached to said seat.

In this example, the words "a plurality of" and "support members" have been deleted from the claim. The words --four-- and --legs attached to said seat-- have been inserted.

If the specification or drawings originally described the inclusion of four legs on the chair, the new limitation of "four legs" in the claim would not constitute new matter.

IV. Arguments

If an Office Action contains a rejection or objection to the claims, the Applicant **MUST** respond with arguments under the heading "Remarks", pointing out disagreements with the Examiner's contentions. The Applicant must also discuss the references applied against the claims, explaining how the claims avoid the references or patentably distinguish from them. The applicant must respond to every ground of rejection and objection set forth in the Office Action. For more details of the amendment process, the Applicant can refer to 37 Code of Federal Regulations Sections 1.118 - 1.121.

V. New Matter

As previously mentioned, no amendment to the specification, claims, or drawings may introduce new matter. "New matter" constitutes any material which meets the following criteria:

- a) It is added to the disclosure (either the specification, the claims, or the drawings) after the filing date of the application, and
- b) It contains new information which is neither included nor implied in the original version of the disclosure. This includes the addition of physical properties, new uses, etc.

VI. Period for Response

The three month shortened statutory period specified in the cover letter (form PTO-326) is the period of time in which the Applicant has to respond to every rejection and objection within this Office Action. The Applicant's response must be received within three months of the date listed on the cover letter, or the application will be held abandoned.

This period, however, may be extended up to a maximum of six months, with the payment of the appropriate fee. The following table lists the required fee for extensions of the three month period:

<u>No. Months after Office Action Date</u>	<u>Amount of Fee</u>
0 - 1	-
1 - 2	-
2 - 3	-
3 - 4	\$ 55
4 - 5	\$200
5 - 6	\$460

If the response is filed four months and one day after the mailing date of the Office Action, the response must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$200. A separate Petition for Extension of Time requesting "an extension of the period for response under 37 CFR 1.136(a)" must be submitted with the response.

VII. Certificate of Mailing

To ensure that the Applicant's response is considered timely filed, it is advisable to include a "Certificate of Mailing" on at least one page of the response. This "Certificate" should consist of the following statement:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231" on (date)

(signature)

This "Certificate" may appear anywhere on the page, and may be handwritten or typed. It MUST be signed by the person who actually deposits the paper with the Postal Service, and the date MUST be the actual date on which it is mailed.

For the purpose of calculating extensions of time, the date shown on the certificate will be used as the date on which the paper was received by the Office, regardless of the date the Postal Service actually delivers the response. In this way, postal delays would not affect the extension-of-time fee.